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Grace Meng

Congress of the United States

Sixth District, New York

June 7, 2024

John J. Tortorice
New York 2 District Manager
United States Postal Service
PO Box 8600
Melville, NY 11760-9996

Dear Mr. Tortorice,

I respectfully request the United States Postal Service (USPS) immediately deploy technologies to combat mail theft in my Sixth Congressional District of New York. According to the recently released USPS Office of Inspector General (OIG) audit report titled "*Mail Theft Mitigation and Response – Queens, NY*," postal facilities in Queens have installed only a fraction of the provided electronic arrow locks (eLocks) and mismanaged the deployment of other security technologies. These technologies, including eLocks, high security collection boxes, and modified arrow locks, help protect the otherwise vulnerable blue collection and green relay boxes from theft.

In recent years, mail theft in Queens, New York, has been unacceptably high. The impacts continue to devastate my constituents who rely on USPS for Social Security checks, medication, important documents, and more. As a long-time advocate in Congress for protecting mail and postal employees, I was pleased by USPS's and United States Postal Inspection Service's (USPIS) joint *Project Safe Delivery* initiative announced in May 2023. The initiative aims to combat the surge in mail theft and attacks against postal employees nationwide. As part of the initiative, postal facilities subject to the OIG audit in Queens received 199 eLocks in 2023. However, as of February 2024, only 76 (38 percent) were installed. According to the audit report, of the 78 eLocks shipped to the Woodside postal facility, none had been installed until the OIG's audit began the following year. At the Jamaica Main postal facility, only 2 of the 94 e-Locks were installed.

According to the OIG's report, "the Postal Service and its customers will continue to be at risk of known mail theft issues in Queens, NY" if these technologies are not deployed promptly. These technologies are useless to the people of Queens collecting dust on a shelf. I urge you to consider deploying these technologies immediately to protect mail and the integrity of USPS.

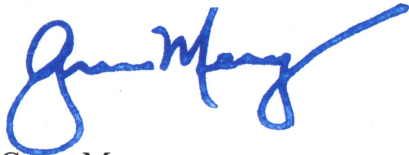
Additionally, I request a briefing on your plan to deploy the remaining technologies provided to Queens postal facilities that have not been installed.

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Please sign up for Rep. Meng's e-newsletter at <https://meng.house.gov/contact/newsletter>

I appreciate your attention to this important matter and for consideration of my request. Should you have any questions, please contact Tom Dinegar of my staff (Tom.Dinegar@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Grace Meng", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Grace Meng
Member of Congress